During April-August, 2008 prices (in terms of Wholesale Prices Index) of inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, diesel have recorded an increase of 5.15%, 3.80% and 9.81% respectively.

(c) National Commission on Farmers (Swaminathan Commission) had recommended that Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) should be at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production. This recommendation has not been accepted by the Government since MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) who, *Inter-alia* takes into account various factors, like cost of production of respective crops before arriving at their recommendations.

(d) The Government has already announced MSP of Rs. 850 per quintal for Paddy Common and Rs. 880 per quintal for Paddy Grade 'A' for 2008-09 season and there is no proposal, at present, to revise the same. However, a proposal to grant bonus of Rs.50 per quintal has been approved, over and above the MSP.

Insurance cover to livestock, fish and birds

19. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes implemented by Government to provide insurance cover to the livestock, fish and birds in the country;

(b) the salient features of each of the schemes;

(c) whether any of such schemes are in force in Goa;

(d) if so, financial assistance given to the State, till date under various schemes; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) In order to provide insurance cover to the livestock, Government of India implemented Livestock Insurance Scheme during 2005-06 to 2007-08. At present, there is no scheme for insuring fish and birds in the country.

(b) The Livestock Insurance scheme was implemented in 100 selected districts of the country on pilot basis to provide insurance cover to crossbred and high yielding Cattle and Buffaloes. The scheme provides 50% subsidy on the insurance premium and rest of the premium is being borne by the beneficiaries. One time benefit of subsidy on premium is restricted to maximum of two animals per beneficiary for a policy of maximum period of three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Activities under Coastal Aquaculture Authority

20. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coastal Aquaculture Authority has started functioning in the country;